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3623

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 5225.0215

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
KAZUO SUMITA ET AL. ) Group Art Unit: 3623  
)  
Application No.: 09/915,415 ) Examiner: P. Choi  
)  
Filed: July 27, 2001 ) Confirmation No.: 7020  
)  
For: COMMODITY DATA )  
MANAGEMENT APPARATUS )  
AND METHOD )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement includes a certification as specified by Section 1.97(e).

Each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in an Office Action issued by the Japanese Patent Office, dated November 1, 2005, in a counterpart Japanese application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication.

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

English-language abstracts of the foreign documents are enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

12/22/05

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Richard V. Burgujian  
Reg. No. 31,744

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	09/915,415
				Filing Date	July 27, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Kazuo Sumita
				Art Unit	3623
				Examiner Name	P. Choi
Attorney Docket Number	5225.0215				
Sheet	1	of	1		

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 DEC 22 2005  
 PATENT & TRADEMARKS OFFICE

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

**Note:** Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		JP 2000-30148	1/28/00	Fujitsu Ltd.		Abstract
		JP 11-154277	6/8/99	NEC Eng. Ltd.		Abstract
		JP 10-91684	4/10/98	Hitachi Ltd.		Abstract
		JP 9-305571	11/28/97	Hitachi Ltd.		Abstract
		JP 6-251253	9/9/94	Hitachi Ltd.		Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Office Action issued by Japanese Patent Office, dated November 1, 2005, for Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-229772	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.